

6 October 1965

Re Question #16:

The problem implied in this question is one of the paramount problems vexing not only the Intelligence Directorate, but the intelligence community as a whole. How do we respond to an ever-increasing requirement for intelligence in view of the necessary limitations on our budget and manpower? There is no really good or satisfactory answer. We cannot profitably transfer our basic intelligence responsibility to current intelligence needs and seriously risk not having the vital intelligence facts in depth when we need them. Nor can we put all of our effort in basic intelligence production in face of constant demands for immediate answers to a barrage of important questions. The approach, if not the best answer, lies in the usual compromise of doing our best in each field with the manpower we have. We do schedule potential crisis areas as regular projects in the NIS Program; we do ad hoc studies on critical countries in GHI, OCI and ORR. At the same time, we are answering questions in OCI and estimating (always looking ahead toward potential crises) in ORR.